

## PRESCHOOL CATEGORIES

**ARS §15-761(8)** *“Hearing impairment”* means a loss of hearing acuity, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section ARS §15-766, which interferes with the child’s performance in the educational environment and requires the provision of special education and related services.

**ARS §15-761(23)** *“Preschool child”* means a child who is at least three years of age but who has not reached the required age for kindergarten.

**ARS §15-761(3)** *“Developmental delay”* means performance by a child who is at least three years of age but under ten years of age on a norm-referenced test that measures at least one and one-half, but not more than three, standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in two or more of the following areas:

- a) cognitive development
- b) physical development
- c) communication development
- d) social or emotional development
- e) adaptive development

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment-based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.

**ARS §15-761(24)** *“Preschool severe delay”* means performance by a preschool child on a norm-referenced test that measures more than three standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age in one or more of the following areas:

- a) cognitive development
- b) physical development
- c) communication development
- d) social or emotional development
- e) adaptive development

The results of the norm-referenced measure must be corroborated by information from a comprehensive developmental assessment and from parental input, if available, as measured by a judgment-based assessment or survey. If there is a discrepancy between the measures, the evaluation team shall determine eligibility based on a preponderance of the information presented.

**ARS § 15-761(34)(a)** *“Speech/language impairment”* for a preschool child, means performance on a norm-referenced language test that measures at least one and one-half standard deviations below the mean for children of the same chronological age or whose speech, out of context, is unintelligible (unable to be understood) to a listener who is unfamiliar with the child. **Eligibility for a preschool child under this subdivision is appropriate only when a comprehensive developmental assessment and parental input indicate that the preschool child is not eligible for services under another preschool category or under the developmental delay category.**

**ARS § 15-761(39)** *“Visual impairment”* means a loss in visual acuity or a loss of visual fields, as determined by evaluation pursuant to section ARS §15-766, that interferes with the child’s performance in the educational environment and that requires the provision of special education and related services.

**Note:** A standard deviation is a unit used to measure the amount by which a particular score differs from the average (mean) of all scores in the sample. Different tests have different standard deviations (typically SD=15, mean=100).